Approximate data deletion and replication with the Bayesian influence function

Ryan Giordano (rgiordano@berkeley.edu, UC Berkeley), Tamara Broderick (MIT)

Theory and Foundations of Statistics in the Era of Big Data — Honoring Basu and Bahadur (April 2024)

Economist 2016 Election Model [Gelman and Heidemanns, 2020]



A time series model to predict the 2016 US presidential election outcome from polling data.

Model:

- $X = x_1, ..., x_N =$ Polling data (N = 361).
- + $\theta = \text{Lots of random effects (day, pollster, etc.)}$
- $f(\theta) = \mbox{Democratic }\%$ of vote on election day

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Problem: Each MCMC run takes about 10 hours (Stan, six cores).

Results

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Compute time for 100 bootstraps: 51 days

Compute time for the linear approximation: Seconds (But note the approximation has some error)

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- · What should the exchangeable unit be?



Augment the problem with data weights w_1, \ldots, w_N . We can write $\underset{p(\theta|X,w)}{\mathbb{E}}[f(\theta)]$.

$$\ell_n(\theta) := \log p(x_n | \theta)$$
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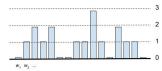
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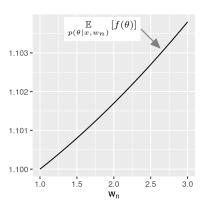


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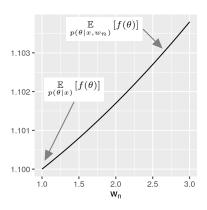


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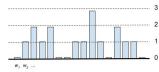
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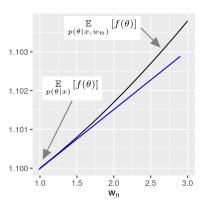


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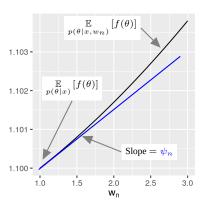


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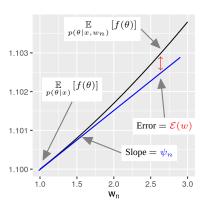


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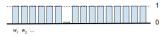
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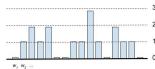
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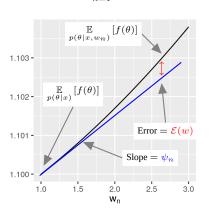


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The re-scaled slope $N\psi_n$ is known as the "influence function" at data point x_n .

$$\underset{p(\theta|X,w)}{\mathbb{E}}\left[f(\theta)\right] - \underset{p(\theta|X)}{\mathbb{E}}\left[f(\theta)\right] = \underset{n=1}{\overset{N}{\sum}} \psi_n(w_n - 1) + \frac{\mathcal{E}(w)}{}$$

How to compute the slopes ψ_n ? How large is the error $\mathcal{E}(w)$?

For simplicity, for the remainder of the presentation, we will consider a single weight.

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Let an overbar denote "posterior–mean zero." For example, $\bar{f}(\theta) := f(\theta) - \underset{p(\theta|X)}{\mathbb{E}} [f(\theta)].$

By dominated convergence and the mean value theorem, for some $\tilde{w}_n \in [0, w_n]$:

$$\psi_n = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|X)}\left[\bar{f}(\theta)\bar{\ell}_n(\theta)\right]}_{\text{Estimatable with MCMC!}} \qquad \mathcal{E}(w_n) = \frac{1}{2}\underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|X,\bar{w}_n)}\left[\bar{f}(\theta)\bar{\ell}_n(\theta)\bar{\ell}_n(\theta)\right](w_n-1)^2}_{\text{Cannot compute directly (don't know }\bar{w})}$$

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Theorem [Giordano and Broderick, 2023] (paraphrase):

If the posterior $p(\theta|X)$ "concentrates" (e.g. as in the Bernstein–von Mises theorem), a then

$$w_n \mapsto N\left(\underset{p(\theta|X,w_n)}{\mathbb{E}} [f(\theta)] - \underset{p(\theta|X)}{\mathbb{E}} [f(\theta)]\right)$$

becomes linear as $N \to \infty$, with slope $\lim_{N \to \infty} \psi_n$.

^aExisting results are sufficient for a *particular weight* [Kass et al., 1990]. Giordano and Broderick [2023] proves that the result holds when averaged over all weights, as needed for variance estimation.

High dimensional problems

What about when parts of the posterior don't concentrate?

Example: Generalized linear model with random effects (REs) λ and fixed effect γ .

Marginally, $p(\lambda|X)$ does not concentrate. \quad Marginally, $p(\gamma|X)$ concentrates.

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Theorem 5 of Giordano and Broderick [2023] (paraphrase): In general, no!

Specifically, if $p(\lambda|X,\gamma)$ does not concentrate, then

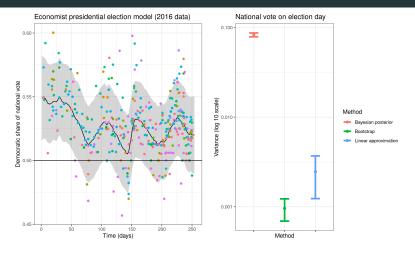
— even if $p(\gamma|X)$ concentrates marginally —

both the slope ψ_n and the error $\mathcal{E}(w_n)$ are $O_p(N^{-1})$, and so

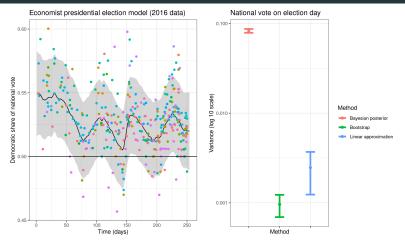
Nowever,
$$\mathcal{E}(w_n) \to 0$$
 as $\underset{p(\lambda|X,\gamma)}{\mathbb{E}}(f(\gamma)] = N\psi_n(w_n-1) + N\mathcal{E}(w_n)$ is nonlinear.

However,
$$\mathcal{E}(w_n) \to 0$$
 as $\mathop{\mathrm{Cov}}_{p(\lambda|X,\gamma)}(\lambda) \to 0$

Observations and consequences



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- We use often use models of the form $p(\gamma, \lambda | X)$.
- Even if the error $\mathcal{E}(w)$ does not vanish, it can still be small enough in practice.
 - ... Especially given the linear approximation's huge computational advantage.

Preprint: Giordano and Broderick [2023] (arXiv:2305.06466) (The preprint focuses on variance estimation, the present results are found in the proofs.)

References

- A. Gelman and M. Heidemanns. The Economist: Forecasting the US elections., 2020. URL https://projects.economist.com/us-2020-forecast/president. Data and model accessed Oct., 2020.
- R. Giordano and T. Broderick. The Bayesian infinitesimal jackknife for variance. arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.06466, 2023.
- J. Huggins and J. Miller. Reproducible model selection using bagged posteriors. Bayesian Analysis, 18(1):79-104, 2023.
- R. Kass, L. Tierney, and J. Kadane. The validity of posterior expansions based on Laplace's method. Bayesian and Likelihood Methods in Statistics and Econometrics, 1990.

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Cross validation. Let $w_{(-n)}$ leave out point n, and loss $f(\theta) = -\ell(x_n|\theta)$.

$$\text{LOO CV loss at point } n = \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{p(\theta|x,w_{(-n)})}[f(\theta)] \mathop{\approx}_{p(\theta|x)} \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{[f(\theta)] - \psi_n}$$

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Example: Approximate bootstrap.

Draw bootstrap weights $w \sim p(w) = \text{Multinomial}(N, N^{-1})$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Bootstrap variance} &= \underset{p(w)}{\text{Var}} \left(\underset{p(\theta|x,w)}{\mathbb{E}} [f(\theta)] \right) \\ &\approx \underset{p(w)}{\text{Var}} \left(\underset{p(\theta|x)}{\mathbb{E}} [f(\theta)] + \psi_n(w_n - 1) \right) \\ &= \underset{n=1}{\overset{N}{\sum}} \left(\psi_n - \overline{\psi} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

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Influential subsets: Approximate maximum influence perturbation (AMIP).

Let $W_{(-K)}$ denote weights leaving out K points.

$$\max_{w \in W_{(-K)}} \left(\underset{p(\theta|x,w)}{\mathbb{E}} \left[f(\theta) \right] - \underset{p(\theta|x)}{\mathbb{E}} \left[f(\theta) \right] \right) \approx - \sum_{n=1}^{K} \psi_{(n)}.$$

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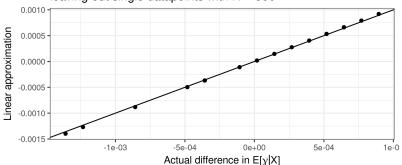
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Negative Binomial model leaving out single datapoints with N = 800

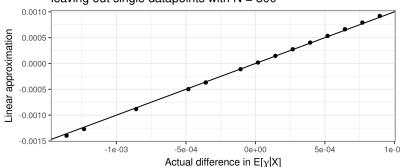


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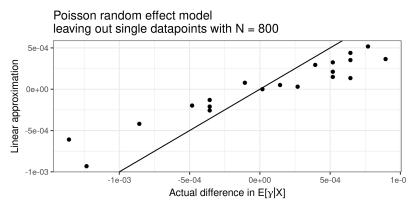
Negative Binomial model leaving out single datapoints with N = 800



Problem: Most computationally hard Bayesian problems don't concentrate.

Experiments

Example: Poisson model with random effects (REs) λ and fixed effect $\gamma.$



A contradiction?

Negative binomial observations.

Asymptotically linear in \boldsymbol{w} .

Poisson observations with random effects.

Asymptotically non-linear in \boldsymbol{w} .

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With a constant regressor, Gamma REs, and one RE per observation, these are the same model, with the same $p(\gamma|X)$.

Is $\underset{p(\gamma|X,w)}{\mathbb{E}}\left[\gamma\right]$ linear in the data weights or not?

Negative binomial observations.

Poisson observations with random effects.

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$$\log p(X|\gamma, w^m) = \sum_{n=1}^N w_n^m \log p(x_n|\gamma) \quad \ \log p(X|\gamma, \lambda, w^c) = \sum_{n=1}^N w_n^c \log p(x_n|\lambda, \gamma)$$

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Trick question! We weight a log likelihood contribution, not a datapoint.

The two weightings are not equivalent in general.

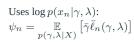
Experimental results

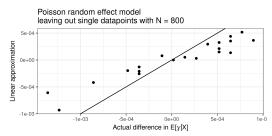
Our results were actually computed on **identical datasets** with G=N and $g_n=n$.

Negative Binomial model

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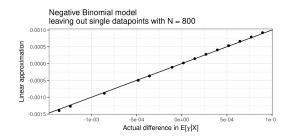
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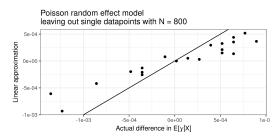
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:
$$\psi_n = \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{p(\gamma,\lambda|X)} \left[\bar{\gamma} \bar{\ell}_n(\gamma,\lambda) \right]$$

Computable from $\gamma, \lambda \sim p(\gamma, \lambda | X)$.

May still be useful when $p(\lambda|X)$ is *somewhat* concentrated.

